

NEW COMBINATIONS IN MEXICAN VERNONIA (SECT. LEPIDAPLOA)

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Gleason (1906, 1922), in his treatments of the North American Vernonia, recognized 4 species within his Texanae "species-group" of the sect. Lepidaploa (Paniculatae verae): V. ervendbergii, V. greggii, V. schaffneri and V. texana.

Chapman and Jones (1978) presented a biosystematic study of these 4 taxa. They retained V. texana but included the remaining taxa as but 3 subspecies in a highly variable V. greggii, to which they added a fourth subspecies, V. greggii subsp. faustiana. In the preparation of a treatment of Vernonia for Mexico I have had to go over their contribution and, in the process, have interpreted the group somewhat differently. I can recognize V. texana (not known from Mexico) and V. greggii, but to the latter I can only discern 2 infraspecific categories, both of which I treat as regional varieties since these intergrade over a narrow region along the lower Gulf slopes of the Sierra Madre Oriental (Fig. 1). I have elevated their subsp. faustiana to specific rank since the few collections known to me are quite different from both varieties of V. greggii, and these occupy an isolated region remote from the other several taxa in the V. texana complex. My interpretation of the Mexican taxa of these groups follows.

1. Heads 1-10 in a subfasciculate or subumbellate capitulescence; involucre 10-12 mm high, the outer bracts with slender subulate apices 2-4 mm long; achenes glabrous or punctate-glandular-----V. faustiana
1. Heads mostly 10-numerous in corymbose panicles, not manifestly subfasciculate or subumbellate; involucre 4-10 mm high, the outer bracts obtuse to acute or apiculate but not with slender subulate apices 2-4 mm long; achenes pubescent (2)-----V. greggii
2. Heads relatively small, mostly with 15-35 florets; involucre bracts mostly 4-6 mm long; Gulf slopes of Sierra Madre Oriental, mostly 900-1700 m
-----var. ervendbergii

2. Heads relatively large, mostly with 40-80 florets; involucral bracts mostly 6-9 mm long; interior mountains, mostly 1500-2500 m-----var. greggii

VERNONIA FAUSTIANA (Chapman & Jones) B. Turner, comb. nov. Based upon Vernonia greggii A. Gray subsp. faustiana

Chapman & Jones, Sida 7: 279. 1978.

This taxon was known to Chapman and Jones only by the holotype (TEX!). Two additional collections have subsequently been made, both somewhat north of the type locality: COAHUILA. MCPIO. DE MUZQUIZ: Rincon de Maria, 28° 27' 30"N, 102° 04'W, 1750 m., 23 Aug 1975, Wendt et al. 1273, 1273A (LL).

VERNONIA GREGGII A. Gray var. GREGGII

Vernonia greggii A. Gray subsp. greggii

Vernonia greggii var. palmeri A. Gray

Vernonia greggii subsp. schaaffneri (A. Gray) Chapman & Jones

Vernonia schaffneri A. Gray

Vernonia taylorae Standl.

The holotype of V. greggii and V. schaffneri are both deposited at GH(!). Strangely, the type of var. palmeri was not located at GH; Chapman and Jones credit the holotype as being at NY.

Chapman and Jones distinguished their subsp. schaaffneri from subsp. greggii by floret number (ca 36 vs 40+) and leaf shape (lanceolate to linear-lanceolate vs elliptic to ovate). These are very variable characters and are not effective in discriminating anything other than the extremes and even these do not fall out into meaningful distributions, at least as judged by a wide range of collections assembled since the work of Chapman and Jones.

The var. greggii intergrades with var. ervendbergii up slope along the front range of the Sierra Madre Oriental. Indeed, some of the specimens are simply more-or-less intermediate between the populational extremes and naming these becomes somewhat arbitrary, as noted by Chapman and Jones.

VERNONIA GREGGII var. ERVENDBERGII (A. Gray) B. Turner, comb. nov.

Based upon *Vernonia ervendbergii* A. Gray, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts 17: 203. 1882.

Vernonia greggii subsp. *ervendbergii* (A. Gray) Chapman & Jones.

A. Gray based his original discription upon sheets, all on deposit in GH(!): an *Ervendberg* collection from "Wartenberg, near Tantoyuca" Prov. Huesteca, Veracruz; *Palmer 750* from near Monclova, Coahuila and a *Gregg* "collection" from near Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. From among these Chapman and Jones neglected to select a lectotype. I have selected the *Ervendberg* collection, which is in the southern part of the range of var. *ervendbergii*. The *Gregg* "collection" was ruled out because Gray cited no collection number but merely noted, "Apparently also near Monterrey, *Gregg*." The very abbreviated descriptions fits both of the aforementioned sheets but more so the *Ervendberg* collection since it has leaves somewhat scabrous on the upper surfaces, a feature mentioned in the protologue not found on the *Palmer* collection. Furthermore, the *Palmer* collection is, in my opinion, somewhat intermediate to the regional varieties recognized here, perhaps even closer to the var. *greggii* than var. *ervendbergii*. It also occurs in more inland habitats, characteristic of the former taxon.

LITERATURE CITED

- Chapman, G. C. and S. B. Jones. 1978. Biosystematics of the Texanae Vernonias...Sida 7:264-281.
- Gleason, H. A. 1906. A revision of the North American Vernonieae. Bull. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 4:203-205.
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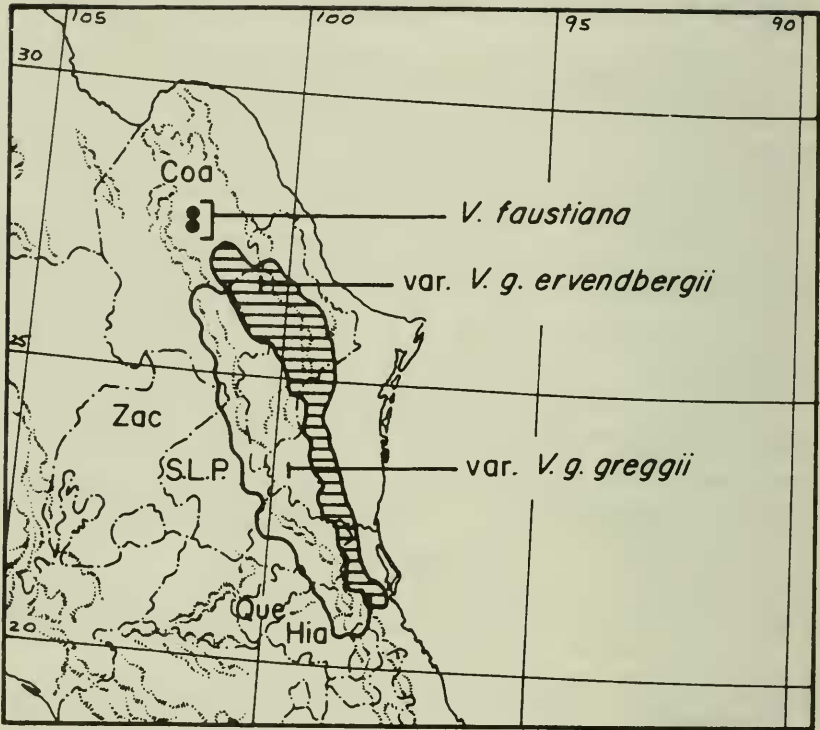


Fig.1. Distribution of Vernonia taxa.